

Message Text

SECRET

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9204

S E C R E T CAIRO 16340

NODIS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR US IS EG

SUBJ: AMOCO DRILLING IN GULF OF SUEZ

REF: (A) STATE 268150, (B) CAIRO 14828, (C) CAIRO 14995

1. AS REPORTED ELSEWHERE, DURING MY MEETING WITH SADAT TODAY, HE ASKED THAT PRESIDENT-ELECT BE BRIEFED ON THE CONTROVERSY ARISING OUT OF ISRAELI HARRASSMENT AND RIG POSITIONING ACTIVITIES IN THE GULF OF SUEZ (CAIRO 16317). I RECALLED OUR PERTINENT DISCUSSION AFTER MY LAST RETURN FROM WASHINGTON AND THE FOUR POINTS RESULTING FROM YOUR TALKS WITH ALLON THAT MIGHT SERVE AS A BASIS TO BEGIN DRILLING AT THE DISPUTED 304.1 SITE (REF B). AT THE TIME THE PRESIDENT HAD ASKED THAT I ALSO GIVE THE POINTS TO FAHMY SO THAT THEY MIGHT BE DISCUSSED FOLLOWING FAHMY'S RETURN FROM SOFIA (REF C). SINCE THAT TIME I HAD HEARD NO MORE ABOUT THE POINTS, BUT HAD BEEN REMINDED OF THEM DURING THE RECENT ISRAELI DRILLING RIG FLAP. WHILE THE MATTER WAS CLEARLY ONE WHICH THE PRESIDENT HAS TO DECIDE IN THE LIGHT OF HIS JUDGEMENT OF EGYPT'S NATIONAL INTEREST, I RECALLED YOU HAD TAKEN UP THE MATTER WITH ALLON PRIMARILY BECAUSE OF SADAT'S EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT A ONE MILLION BPD PRODUCTION FIGURE BE REACHED BY 1980

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IF THE EGYPTIAN ECONOMY IS TO BE STRENGTHENED.

2. SADAT ACKNOWLEDGED THAT HE HAD NOT YET DISCUSSED THE SUBJECT WITH FAHMY. HE SAID I SHOULD CONVEY TO YOU HIS PRELIMINARY VIEW THAT THE FOUR POINTS MAY BE AGREEABLE, PROVIDED IT IS CLEARLY UNDERSTOOD THAT THE USG AND NOT GOE WILL CONDUCT DISCUSSION WITH THE ISRAELIS ON ANY OTHER AMOCO CONCESSION AREAS EAST OF THE SO-CALLED MEDIAN LINE. WE SHOULD NOT, HOWEVER, TAKE THIS AS A FINAL GOE POSITION SINCE HE STILL INTENDS TO TALK TO HIS "AIDES" ABOUT THE MATTER. FAHMY IS DUE BACK FRIDAY AFTER WHICH THE SUBJECT WILL BE STUDIED. EITHER HE OR FAHMY WILL LET US KNOW GOE'S FINAL DECISION.

3. I AGAIN EMPHASIZED TO THE PRESIDENT THAT YOUR SOLE PURPOSE IN DEVELOPING THESE POINTS WITH ALLON WAS TO BE HELPFUL AND TO FIND A PRAGMATIC WAY TO ALLOW DRILLING TO BE RESUMED AT 304.1. SADAT SAID HE APPRECIATES YOUR EFFORTS IN THIS REGARD. EILTS

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